

CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A container for tie wraps, comprising at least front and rear rectangular surfaces, wherein:
the front and rear rectangular surfaces are coupled along three of their four edges to form at least one pocket with a top opening along the fourth edge;
the front surface includes [[an]] a diamond-shaped opening having four corners, wherein the diamond-shaped opening is positioned near the center of the front surface and oriented such that a first line defined by a first pair of opposing corners of the diamond-shaped opening is substantially parallel to top and bottom edges of the front and rear surfaces, the diamond-shaped opening being adapted for accessing tie wraps that are carried in the pocket; [[and]]
the rear surface is coupled to an attachment arrangement that enables the container to be secured to another object; and
the diamond-shaped opening in the front surface has a size, shape, orientation, and position that enable a tie wrap oriented substantially perpendicular to the first line to be efficiently removed from the pocket by a person reaching into the pocket through the diamond-shaped opening with a thumb and finger oriented corresponding to the first pair of opposing corners of the diamond-shaped opening, grabbing the tie wrap along its length, and pulling the tie wrap through the diamond-shaped opening such that the tie wrap deforms from its normally linear configuration into a folded configuration oriented corresponding to the other pair of opposing corners of the diamond-shaped opening, such that other tie wraps remain within the pocket.

2-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The invention of claim 1, wherein:
~~a first of the rear~~ rectangular surface[[s]] is longer than ~~the other of the front~~ rectangular surface[[s]] such that the ~~first rear~~ surface extends beyond the top edge of the ~~other front~~ surface to form a flap that can be folded over the top opening of the pocket to form a top to the pocket; and
the container further comprises a mechanism for securing the flap to the ~~other front~~ surface.

5. (currently amended) The invention of claim 4, wherein the mechanism comprises pieces of ~~Velcro~~ a hook-and-loop material correspondingly mounted to the flap and to the ~~other front~~ surface.

6. (original) The invention of claim 1, further comprising an eyelet mounted near the top edge of the container for securing the container to a work area.

7. (original) The invention of claim 1, further comprising a ring coupled to the rear surface and enabling the container to hang from a protrusion in a work area.

8. (original) The invention of claim 1, further comprising a loop coupled to the rear surface and enabling the container to be secured to a person's belt.

9. (original) The invention of claim 1, wherein the front and rear surfaces are coupled together using additional material to add depth to the container.

10. (original) The invention of claim 1, wherein the front and rear surfaces comprise a flexible material that can stretch to accommodate tie wraps.

11. (original) The invention of claim 1, wherein the front and rear surfaces are coupled using stitches.

1 12. (currently amended) The invention of claim 1, wherein edges of the diamond-shaped
2 opening are stitched to provide additional reinforcement.

1 13. (currently amended) The invention of claim 1, wherein the edges of the diamond-shaped
2 opening are reinforced with additional material.

1 14. The invention of claim 1, further comprising a strap coupled to the rear surface and
2 enabling the container to be secured to a person's thigh.

1 15. (original) The invention of claim 1, wherein at least one of the front and rear surfaces is
2 made from a translucent material.

1 16. (original) The invention of claim 1, wherein at least one of the front and rear surfaces is
2 color coded.

1 17. (original) The invention of claim 1, wherein the container comprises two or more
2 pockets.

1 18. (original) The invention of claim 17, wherein the front surface of the two or more
2 pockets have different colors.

1 19. (original) The invention of claim 17, wherein the front surface of the two or more
2 pockets are tactilely differentiated from each other.

1 20. (original) The invention of claim 1, wherein the front and rear surfaces are made from a
2 single piece of material folded along one side and stitched along two other sides.

1 21. (currently amended) A container for tie wraps, comprising at least front and rear
2 rectangular surfaces, wherein:
3 the front and rear rectangular surfaces are coupled along three of their four edges to form at least
4 one pocket with a top opening along the fourth edge;

5 the front surface includes [[an]] a diamond-shaped opening having four corners, wherein the
6 diamond-shaped opening is positioned near the center of the front surface and oriented such that a first
7 line defined by a first pair of opposing corners of the diamond-shaped opening is substantially parallel to
8 top and bottom edges of the front and rear surfaces, the diamond-shaped opening being adapted for
9 accessing tie wraps that are carried in the pocket; and

10 the rear surface is coupled to an attachment arrangement that enables the container to be secured
11 to another object, wherein:

12 the diamond-shaped opening in the front surface is diamond shaped and has a size,
13 shape, orientation, and position that enable a tie wrap oriented substantially perpendicular to the first line
14 to be efficiently removed from the pocket by a person reaching into the pocket through the diamond-
15 shaped opening with a thumb and finger oriented corresponding to the first pair of opposing corners of
16 the diamond-shaped opening, grabbing the tie wrap along its length, and pulling the tie wrap through the
17 diamond-shaped opening [[in]] such that the tie wrap deforms from its normally linear configuration into
18 a folded configuration oriented corresponding to the other pair of opposing corners of the diamond-
19 shaped opening, such that other tie wraps remain within the pocket;

20 a first of the rear rectangular surface[[s]] is longer than the other of the front rectangular
21 surface[[s]] such that the first rear surface extends beyond the top edge of the other front surface to form
22 a flap that can be folded over the top opening of the pocket to form a top to the pocket and the container
23 further comprises a mechanism for securing the flap to the other surface wherein the mechanism

comprises pieces of ~~Velcro~~ a hook-and-loop material correspondingly mounted to the flap and to the other front surface;
the ~~tote~~ container further comprises an eyelet mounted near the top edge of the container for securing the container to a work area;
the ~~tote~~ container further comprises a ring coupled to the rear surface that enables the container to hang from a protrusion in a work area and a loop coupled to the rear surface that enables the container to be secured to a person's belt;
the front and rear surfaces are coupled using stitches; and
the edges of the diamond-shaped opening are stitched, and include additional material to provide additional reinforcement.

22. (currently amended) A tie-wrap container, comprising a supporting structure adapted to support one or more compartments, each compartment adapted to hold tie wraps, wherein:
each compartment includes at least one diamond-shaped access opening on a front surface of the compartment;
the diamond-shaped access opening for each compartment has four corners and is positioned near the center of the front surface of the compartment and oriented such that a first line defined by a first pair of opposing corners of the diamond-shaped access opening is substantially parallel to top and bottom edges of the compartment, the diamond-shaped access opening being adapted for accessing tie wraps that are carried in the compartment;
the diamond-shaped access opening for each compartment is smaller than the front surface of the compartment;
the diamond-shaped access opening for each compartment has a size, shape, orientation, and position that enable a tie wrap oriented substantially perpendicular to the first line to be efficiently removed from the compartment by a person reaching into the compartment through the diamond-shaped access opening with a thumb and finger oriented corresponding to the first pair of opposing corners of the diamond-shaped access opening, grabbing the tie wrap along its length, and pulling the tie wrap through the diamond-shaped access opening such that the tie wrap deforms from its normally linear configuration into a folded configuration oriented corresponding to the other pair of opposing corners of the diamond-shaped access opening, such that other tie wraps remain within the compartment;
each compartment has at least one additional opening in addition to the diamond-shaped access opening, the additional opening being large enough to support loading and unloading of tie wraps into and from the compartment;
each compartment includes a mechanism for closing the additional opening in the compartment to prevent the tie wraps from falling out; and
the container is coupled to a mounting arrangement that is configured for mounting the container on a surface or to a person's body.

23. (original) The invention of claim 22, wherein the container includes two or more compartments, each of which is color coded differently or tactilely differentiated from the others.

24. (original) The invention of claim 22, wherein the material of at least one of the compartments includes a translucent portion.

25. (currently amended) A method for storing and accessing tie wraps, comprising the steps of:
(a) storing a plurality of tie wraps in a container comprising at least front and rear rectangular surfaces, wherein:
the front and rear rectangular surfaces are coupled along three of their four edges to form at least one pocket with a top opening along the fourth edge;

7 the front surface includes [[an]] a diamond-shaped opening having four corners, wherein
8 the diamond-shaped opening is positioned near the center of the front surface and oriented such that a
9 first line defined by a first pair of opposing corners of the diamond-shaped opening is substantially
10 parallel to top and bottom edges of the front and rear surfaces, the diamond-shaped opening being
11 adapted for accessing tie wraps that are carried in the pocket; [[and]]

12 the rear surface is coupled to an attachment arrangement that enables the container to be
13 secured to another object; and

14 the diamond-shaped opening in the front surface has a size, shape, orientation, and
15 position that enable a tie wrap oriented substantially perpendicular to the first line to be efficiently
16 removed from the pocket by a person reaching into the pocket through the diamond-shaped opening with
17 a thumb and finger oriented corresponding to the first pair of opposing corners of the diamond-shaped
18 opening, grabbing the tie wrap along its length, and pulling the tie wrap through the diamond-shaped
19 opening such that the tie wrap deforms from its normally linear configuration into a folded configuration
20 oriented corresponding to the other pair of opposing corners of the diamond-shaped opening, such that
21 other tie wraps remain within the pocket; and

22 (b) removing a tie wrap from the pocket by reaching into the pocket through the diamond-
23 shaped opening with a thumb and finger oriented corresponding to the first pair of opposing corners of
24 the diamond-shaped opening, grabbing the tie wrap along its length, and pulling the tie wrap through the
25 diamond-shaped opening [[in]] such that the tie wrap deforms from its normally linear configuration into
26 a folded orientation oriented corresponding to the other pair of opposing corners of the diamond-shaped
27 opening, such that other tie wraps remain within the pocket.

1 26. (original) The invention of claim 25, further comprising the step of securing the
2 container to a person's belt by passing the belt through a belt loop of the container.

1 27. (original) The invention of claim 26, further comprising the step of securing the
2 container to the person's thigh by strapping the container to the person's thigh using a strap of the
3 container.

1 28. (original) The invention of claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

- 2 (c) opening a flap at the top of the container to expose the top opening of the pocket; and
3 (d) inserting additional tie wraps into the pocket through the top opening.

1 29. (original) The invention of claim 25, wherein the container comprises a plurality of
2 pockets and further comprising the step of differentiating the plurality of pockets based on each pocket
3 being made from material having a different color.

1 30. (original) The invention of claim 25, wherein the container comprises a plurality of
2 pockets and further comprising the step of differentiating the plurality of pockets based on each pocket
3 being made from tactilely differentiated material.

1 31. (currently amended) A method for storing and accessing tie wraps, comprising the steps
2 of:

- 3 (a) storing a plurality of tie wraps in a container comprising at least front and rear
4 rectangular surfaces, wherein:
5 the front and rear rectangular surfaces are coupled along three of their four edges to form
6 at least one pocket with a top opening along the fourth edge;
7 the front surface includes [[an]] a diamond-shaped opening having four corners, wherein
8 the diamond-shaped opening is positioned near the center of the front surface and oriented such that a
9 first line defined by a first pair of opposing corners of the diamond-shaped opening is substantially

parallel to top and bottom edges of the front and rear surfaces, the diamond-shaped opening being adapted for accessing tie wraps that are carried in the pocket;

the diamond-shaped opening in the front surface has a size, shape, orientation, and position that enable a tie wrap oriented substantially perpendicular to the first line to be efficiently removed from the pocket by a person reaching into the pocket through the diamond-shaped opening with a thumb and finger oriented corresponding to the first pair of opposing corners of the diamond-shaped opening, grabbing the tie wrap along its length, and pulling the tie wrap through the diamond-shaped opening such that the tie wrap deforms from its normally linear configuration into a folded configuration oriented corresponding to the other pair of opposing corners of the diamond-shaped opening, such that other tie wraps remain within the pocket; and

the rear surface is coupled to an attachment arrangement that enables the container to be secured to another object;

(b) removing a tie wrap from the pocket by reaching into the pocket through the diamond-shaped opening with a thumb and finger oriented corresponding to the first pair of opposing corners of the diamond-shaped opening, grabbing the tie wrap along its length, and pulling the tie wrap through the opening [[in]] such that the tie wrap deforms from its normally linear configuration into a folded orientation oriented corresponding to the other pair of opposing corners of the diamond-shaped opening, such that other tie wraps remain within the pocket;

(c) securing the container to a person's belt by passing the belt through a belt loop of the container;

(d) opening a flap at the top of the container to expose the top opening of the pocket; and

(e) inserting additional tie wraps into the pocket through the top opening wherein:

the container comprises a plurality of pockets and the method further comprises the steps of differentiating the plurality of pockets based on each pocket being made from material having a different color and differentiating the plurality of pockets based on each pocket being made from tactilely differentiated material.

32. (original) The invention of claim 31, further comprising securing the container to the person's thigh by strapping the container to the person's thigh using a strap of the container.